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DECLASSIFIED
REVIEWED BY EB 5 MAR 1982
PORTIONS EXEMPTED

E.O. 12065: XDS, 12/22/00 (GRAHL, LARRY C) OR-M
TAGS: PGOV, UV
SUBJECT: MILITARY REACHES OUT FOR POPULAR SUPPORT
1. (C) SUMMARY: UPPER VOLTA'S NEW GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A SERIES OF DECREES APPARENTLY DESINGED TO BOLSTER ITS IMAGE WITH KEY INTEREST GROUPS AND THE PEOPLE AT LARGE. INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO EXAMINE CORRUPTION OF FORMER REGIME. ALL GOUV MINISTERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE A FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT. CIVIL SERVANTS OUSTED DURING THE THIRD REPUBLIC FOR POLITICAL REASONS ARE TO BE REINSTATED. A "NATIONAL SUGGESTION BOX" IS TO BE INITIATED. THE CMRPN HAS BANNED POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND HUNTING--A MOVE GUARANTEED TO UPSET RURAL VOLTANS. END SUMMARY.
2. (LOU) THE PAST WEEK HAS PROVIDED CLEAR SIGNS THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE OF REFORM FOR NATIONAL PROGRESS (CMRPN) IS

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EARNESTLY SEEKING TO SOLIDIFY ITS SUPPORT AMONG KEY CIVILIANS AND THE POPULATION AT LARGE. ON DECEMBER 14 THE CMRPN CREATED AN INQUIRY COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE "MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS" BY THE FORMER REGIME. ON DECEMBER 18 THE CREATION OF A COMMISSION TO STUDY AND INVESTIGATE THE (MIS-) MANAGEMENT OF PARASTATALS WAS ANNOUNCED. BOTH COMMISSIONS ARE TO BE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOUV, LABOR, MILITARY, PRIVATE BUSINESS AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS.
3. (LOU) THE CMRPN MADE ANOTHER GESTURE DESTINED TO ENHANCE RELATIONS WITH INFLUENTIAL CIVIL SERVANTS. MINISTRIES WERE ORDERED ON DECEMBER 21 TO REHIRE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD BEEN TERMINATED "FOR REASONS OTHER THAN GROSS NEGLIGENCE"--OR JUSTIFY TO THE CIVIL SERVICE MINISTRY WHY SUCH INDIVIDUALS COULD NOT BE REINTEGRATED. THIS MEASURE IS PRIMARILY AIMED TO RECTIFY THE STATUS OF SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS THAT HAD BEEN RELEASED FOR

POLITICAL REASONS BY THE CONOMBO GOVERNMENT. THIS MOVE IS MORE SYMBOLIC THAN MOST OTHERS BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF CIVIL SERVANTS INVOLVED IS VERY SMALL--PROBABLY LESS THAN TEN.

5. (U) IN A RELATED ACTION, THE CMRPN ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 20 THAT ALL MINISTERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT A FULL ACCOUNTING OF THEIR PERSONAL ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 7, 1980. THIS DISCLOSURE POLICY IS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE FREEWHELLING STYLE



OF THE THIRD REPUBLIC AND HAS BEEN WIDELY ACCLAIMED BY THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.

6. (C) MESSAGES OF SUPPORT CONTINUE TO POUR IN FROM VOLTANS OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE AND CONTINUE TO RECEIVE HIGH BILLING ON THE NATIONAL RADIO.

ON DECEMBER 18 THE CMRPN CALLED ON VOLTANS TO SEND IN THEIR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO "REHABILITATE THE NATION."

7. (C) OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS THE CMRPN HAS ANNOUNCED SEVERAL "NATIONAL SECURITY" MEASURES ANYONE ON VOLTAN TERRITORY POSSESSING A GUN HAS BEEN ORDERED TO TURN THE WEAPON OVER TO THE GENDARMERIE. ALL HUNTING OF ANY TYPE HAS BEEN OUTLAWED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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